

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding non-final Office Action mailed January 13, 2005. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and pending claims are respectfully requested.

I. Drawings

Figure 4 has been amended to correct a typographical error. In particular, in block 420, "Direction Connection Detector" has been replaced with "Direct Connection Manager" so as to agree with Applicant's written description. Applicant notes that no new matter has been added.

II. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claim 2 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the Examiner states that "the local printing device" recited in claim 2 lacks antecedent basis.

As is noted in the foregoing, Applicant has made several amendments to the claims. Through those amendments, the identified lack of antecedent basis has been corrected. In view of that, it is respectfully asserted that Applicant's claims define the invention in the manner required by 35 U.S.C. § 112. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections to these claims be withdrawn.

III. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hamzy et al. ("Hamzy," U.S. Pat. No. 6,623,527). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

As a first matter, Applicant notes that the Hamzy reference issued after Applicant's filing date. As such, the Hamzy reference is not a proper Section 102(b) reference. Applicant respectfully requests correction of this error.

Turning to the merits of the rejection, Applicant notes that each of Applicant's remaining claims has been amended through this response. In view of those amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection is moot as having been drawn against Applicant's claims in their original form. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

IV. Canceled Claims

As identified above, claims 5, 7, and 15-19 have been canceled from the application through this Response without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Applicant reserves the right to present these canceled claims, or variants thereof, in continuing applications to be filed subsequently.

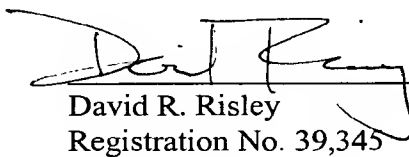
V. New Claims

As identified above, claims 20-43 have been added into the application through this Response. Applicant respectfully submits that these new claims describe an invention novel and unobvious in view of the prior art of record and, therefore, respectfully requests that these claims be held to be allowable.

CONCLUSION

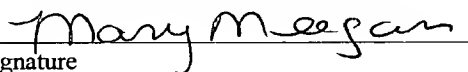
Applicant respectfully submits that Applicant's pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on

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